PM hails record remittances

Rich tribute paid to late IT prodigy Arfa Karim

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has thanked overseas Pakistanis for sending record remittances in Dec 2025 which surpassed figures of the last year.

In a statement here on Sunday, the prime minister said patriotic Pakistanis living abroad remitted 3.6 billion dollars in Dec 2025, which reflects their strong commitment to the country's economic stability.

He said remittances witnessed a 16.5 per cent increase compared to the same period last year.

The prime minister termed the rise in remittances a clear manifestation of overseas Pakistanis' confidence in the government's economic policies.

He appreciated their role in rejecting negative propaganda and contributing to national development through continued financial support.

"Overseas Pakistanis are our valuable asset, and the entire nation, including myself, takes pride in them," the prime minister said.

He said that ensuring welfare and facilitation of overseas Pakistanis remains one of the government's top priorities and reaffirmed the commitment to take further measures for their well-being.

Meeting with parents of Arfa Karim

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also met on Sunday parents of late IT prodigy Arfa Karim Randhawa, Samina Amjad and Amjad Karim Randhawa, and Chief Executive of Arfa Karim Foundation, Tabinda Islam.

Speaking on the occasion, PM Shehbaz said providing the Pakistani youth with internationally competitive education and training in the information technology sector is among government's top priorities.

Paying rich tribute to Arfa Karim, the prime minister lauded her remarkable contribution to the IT sector at a young age and for bringing pride to Pakistan on the global stage.

He said that in recognition of her lasting services, the IT Tower in Lahore has been named Arfa Karim Tower.

The prime minister said the government was working round-the-clock to transform the country into a regional hub for the IT sector and special emphasis was being placed on IT education and training for the youth, along with promotion of entrepreneurship in this sector.

He said the federal government has continued its laptop distribution programme this year as well to encourage high-performing male and female students.

Terming the establishment of the Arfa Karim Foundation a positive step for promotion of IT sector in the country, the prime minister assured full government support to the foundation at all levels.

The parents of late Arfa Karim appreciated the government's initiatives for the development of the IT sector in the country.

12 terrorists killed in three KP districts

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of terrorists in the remote rural area.

"The hideouts of militants located in the difficult mountainous terrain were targeted with the help of gunship helicopters," the source said.

Officials said a sanitisation operation was also launched to eliminate any other terrorists if found in the area.

Sunday's incident follows a similar operation on Dec 4, when the CTD's SWAT team killed three terrorists in Lakki Marwat.

According to an official statement, the department received information about the possible entry of terrorists into the Sarai Naurang area of Lakki Marwat district. The SWAT unit from Bannu and local police intercepted the terrorists on Pardal Begokhel road.

The militants killed in the Dec 4 operation were identified as target killers, including Muhammad Nazir alias Mujahid; Fawadullah alias Moaz; and Afnan Khan alias Afnani.

A Kalashnikov, two 9mm pistols, two mobile phones and three cards from a banned group were recovered from those militants.

Woman killed in Quetta gas explosion

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: A woman was killed in a gas explosion that took place in the Killi Umar area on the outskirts of the provincial capital on Sunday.

Police said a powerful explosion occurred inside a house due to gas accumulation. The woman sustained critical burn injuries and was shifted to the burn unit of Civil Hospital Quetta, where she later succumbed to her injuries.

The deceased was identified as the niece of Nazar Barech, president of the All Pakistan Private Schools Federation, Balochistan.

Over the past few days, around half a dozen gas leakage incidents have been reported in different parts of Quetta, leaving at least 15 people injured, including women and children, and causing damage to several houses.

The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has advised residents to switch off gas appliances before going to sleep and ensure that gas supply valves are closed when supply is suspended at midnight.

Two unidentified bodies found

Police on Saturday recovered the bodies of two unidentified persons from separate areas of Quetta.

According to police, personnel from Bijli Road police station found the body of an unidentified man within their jurisdiction and shifted it to a hospital for medico-legal formalities. In a separate incident, another unidentified body was recovered near the Sariab Phatak area.

Residents of the respective localities informed the authorities about the dumped bodies, following which police rushed to the sites, took the bodies into custody and shifted them to the Civil Hospital, Quetta, for post-mortem examination.

Police said the deceased could not be identified immediately. Investigations into the deaths were underway.

Govt to hire 4,000 schoolteachers on ad hoc basis

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The Balochistan government will recruit 4,000 teachers on an ad hoc basis under the Academic Excellence Programme of the provincial government to address shortage of subject specialists in schools.

Announcing this, Balochistan Secretary of Education Asfandyar Khan Kakar said that new recruitments would help overcome shortage of English, Mathematics and Science teachers in government schools in the province.

"Schools in Balochistan are currently facing a shortfall of 70 to 80 per cent in these key subjects," the secretary said, adding that to bridge this gap, the provincial government has prepared a summary for recruiting 4,000 teachers.

These recruitments of teachers would be on ad hoc basis in Grade-17, Mr Kakar said, adding the government move is expected to improve the quality of education in government schools. The Balochistan government has restored several thousand non-functional schools in Balochistan. The schools had been closed due to non-availability of teachers or their absence from duty.

Newly-wed couple among eight killed in Islamabad blast

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with 20 per cent burn injuries.

She later told *Dawn* that nine of the injured had been discharged. She added that among the two at the hospital, the condition of one of them was "unstable" and would have to undergo surgery.

Islamabad Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Sahibzada Yusuf reached the site soon after the explosion and told reporters that at least four houses had been damaged. He confirmed that the deceased included the bride and groom.

"Apart from those shifted to Pims, two bodies and one injured person were taken to the Capital Hospital," he said.

'Cylinder explosion'

"The explosion occurred at a wedding venue, where guests were also present," ADC Yusuf said, adding that all those trapped had been rescued from the rubble by means of "advanced technology".

While an inquiry had been ordered to determine the exact cause, the official said it appeared to be a cylinder explosion.

Islamabad Chief Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa also told reporters that apparently the explosion was caused by a gas leak.

"So far, we have concluded that this explosion occurred due to a gas leakage," he said.

"Nonetheless, we will carry out an independent probe into it. We've received instructions from the Prime Minister's Office to launch a proper inquiry and find out the reasons as to why this incident happened."

To a query, Mr Randhawa replied that compensation for the victims would not be delayed, though verification could take four to five days.

Meanwhile, Hanif Masih, the father of the deceased groom, told reporters that the wedding had taken place on Saturday and the family had returned home the night before the explosion.

"At the time of the incident [explosion], I was sleeping in a separate room adjacent to the house. I woke up after hearing a loud explosion and rushed to the spot, but by then everything had been destroyed," he said.

He continued that apart from his son and daughter-in-law, his sister-in-law was also among the deceased, while his daughter and other family members were admitted to hospital.

PM Shehbaz expresses grief

PM Shehbaz expressed deep grief over the loss of lives, prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured and offered condolences to the bereaved families.

According to the state-run *APP*, the prime minister directed the federal health minister, health secretary, and Pims administration to remain on high alert and ensure that quality possible medical facilities were provided to the injured.

He also instructed the interior secretary to conduct a thorough investigation and submit a detailed report identifying the cause of the incident and fixing responsibility.

Iran warns US against interference amid deadly violence

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man is heard saying. In Tehran, an *AFP* journalist described a city in a state of near paralysis.

The price of meat has nearly doubled since the start of the protests, and while some shops are open, many others are not. Those that do open must close at around 4pm or 5pm.

Turkiye bars protest

Turkiye, meanwhile, prevented Iranian nationals from protesting outside Iran's consulate in Istanbul, with the area cordoned off and crowds blocked by police. Turkey hosts more than 74,000 Iranians with residence permits and around 5,000 refugees.

Demonstrators gathered under steady rain in Istanbul, where Nina, a young Iranian exile, said she wanted to show solidarity with the protesters.

"It's been 72 hours since we had any news from the country, from our families. No internet or television, we can't reach Iran anymore," she said, the Iranian flag and red tears painted across her face.

"The regime kills at random — whether families are on foot or in a car, whether there are children. It spares no one," she added.—Agencies

PTI holds Karachi power show amid crackdown claims

Continued from Page 1

alleging that both the Punjab and Sindh governments treated him and his party unfairly. He said the PTI would now focus on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and spread the message of jailed party founder Imran Khan across the country through street mobilisation.

He thanked the people of Sindh and Karachi for giving him a warm reception and joining the rally. "The people have demonstrated that they stand with Imran Khan," he said, adding that those who believed Imran Khan's politics had ended should witness the public response.

Mr Afridi said the rally proved that a large gathering could be held even without facilities or arrangements, accusing the Sindh government of creating hurdles that were ultimately removed by the people. He claimed the massive turnout showed PTI was a representative party of Karachi.

He accused the Sindh government of insulting Sindhi cultural symbols, including the Sindhi topi and ajrak.

He also alleged that the PPP, along with others, had altered the structure of the Constitution and established a "dictatorship" in Sindh.

Mr Afridi said the public was ready to march to Islamabad's D-Chowk and was awaiting a call from Imran Khan. "We will not allow anyone to usurp our rights or keep the leader of the nation imprisoned without justification," he vowed, adding that what he described as the Sindh government's "fascism" would be remembered for a long time.

Earlier, the PTI alleged its supporters were met with shelling in the afternoon at the previously announced venue of Bagh-i-Jinnah.

The Sindh government has permitted the PTI to hold a rally at Bagh-i-Jinnah. However, the PTI, citing a delay in receiving the permit, earlier announced it would organise the gathering at one of the gates of Mazar-i-Quaid.

PTI Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh alleged CM Afridi's convoy faced delays "due to obstructions at various places, and the public's affection, welcomes and responses at numerous places".

Mr Sheikh shared a video on X wherein a woman said police have resorted to shelling at party supporters at "Mazar-i-Quaid's garden".

He lashed out at the Sindh police and government for their actions.

PTI spokesperson Mohammad Ali Bozdar told *Dawn* that police had blocked roads and were not allowing party workers to enter Bagh-i-Jinnah, where the government had previously allowed the party to hold the rally.

He reiterated his allegation that police had blocked roads in various areas and were preventing PTI workers from reaching the new venue of Mazar-i-Quaid's VIP gate as well. The PTI said the Sindh police had "attempted to prevent" CM Afridi's convoy from moving forward, but the party leaders "had the path reopened with the help of party workers".

'Routes blocked'

CM Afridi claimed in a post on X that "upon my return from Hyderabad, all routes for me and my entire team have been blocked. For the past four hours, I've been switching between different routes. At 4:23am, we've now set off toward Karachi on a deserted road".

"Pakistan belongs to all of us. Do not spread hatred here to such an extent that it becomes impossible to return from that point. Fake democratic forces are not leaving any stone unturned in this. This is extremely shameful," he said.

However, Hyderabad SSP Adeel Chandio told *Dawn* that "no obstruction was created in the convoy and rally of KP CM in Hyderabad until he left the city". "And he left the city safely," he added.

'Attack' on media persons

Separately, Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar took notice of an "attack" on *Aaj News*' vehicle near Gurumandir Chowrangi.

He also directed the East district senior superintendent of police to immediately provide details on "police action".

"Miscreant elements will be dealt with firmly. We will not let anyone sabotage law and order," Mr Lanjar asserted.

Minister tenders apology

Meanwhile, speaking to *Geo News*, Sindh Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah tendered an apology to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi for any "unpleasant incident" that he may have faced during his ongoing visit to Sindh. "I personally apologise if something [unpleasant] happened somewhere, as this should not happen," Mr Shah said.

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Position	Senior Admin officer
Department	Government Relation
Location	Karachi
Qualification	• Bachelor's degree in business administration, Management, or a related field. • Relevant administrative or office management certifications will be an advantage.
Experience	• Minimum 5 years of relevant experience in administration, office management, or executive support roles. • Demonstrated experience supporting senior management and handling office operations in a corporate or project-based environment.
Requirements	○ Strong organizational, multitasking, and time-management skills. ○ Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and local languages. ○ Proficiency in MS Office and ERP systems (SAP preferred). ○ Strong interpersonal and coordination skills to manage internal and external stakeholders. ○ Knowledge of office administration, facilities coordination, vendor management, and logistics. ○ Ability to handle confidential information with professionalism and discretion. ○ Problem-solving mindset with a focus on process improvement and operational efficiency. ○ Leadership capability to supervise and mentor junior administrative staff.
Responsibilities	• Provide high-level administrative and executive support to senior management, including calendar management, meeting coordination, and travel arrangements. • Oversee daily office operations, including office supplies management, vendor coordination, and maintenance of office equipment and facilities. • Plan and coordinate internal and external meetings, events, and employee engagement activities, managing logistics, vendors, and communication. • Act as a liaison between management, internal departments, and external stakeholders to ensure smooth communication and coordination. • Draft, proofread, and manage business correspondence, reports, contracts, and official documents, maintaining organized digital and physical filing systems. • Coordinate meeting logistics, including room bookings, catering, audio-visual requirements, and meeting setup. • Identify administrative process gaps and implement improvements to enhance efficiency, productivity, and cost control. • Maintain accurate, confidential, and secure office records and administrative data. • Supervise, mentor, and support junior administrative staff, providing guidance, training, and performance feedback. • Monitor and manage administrative budgets and expenses to ensure cost-effective operations. • Manage logistics and transportation arrangements for employees, visitors, and business activities as required. • Coordinate with building management, service providers, and facilities teams to ensure a safe, functional, and well-maintained workplace. • Handle ERP/SAP-related activities, including invoicing, purchase requisitions, purchase orders, service entries, goods receipt processing, vendor coordination, and expense reconciliation.

Position	Health, Safety and Training Administrator
Department	Health & Safety
Location	Reko Diq Mine Site – Balochistan
Qualification	• University degree in Business Administration or a related discipline (preferred). • Minimum education requirement: Senior High School or equivalent. • Relevant Health, Safety, or Training administration certifications will be an advantage.
Experience	• 1 to 3 years of experience in Health, Safety & Training (HS&T) administration or a related role. • Experience in mining, construction, heavy engineering, or resources industries preferred. • Experience managing safety documentation, training records, and compliance data in a site-based or operational environment.
Requirements	○ Strong administrative, organizational, and data management skills with high attention to detail. ○ Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (intermediate to advanced level). ○ Ability to analyze safety statistics and maintain Lead and Lag Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). ○ Effective written and verbal communication skills in English. ○ Strong interpersonal skills to coordinate with internal teams and external stakeholders. ○ Ability to manage multiple tasks, prioritize workload, and meet reporting deadlines. ○ High level of discretion and integrity when handling confidential information. ○ Ability to work independently with minimal supervision in a site environment.
Responsibilities	• Provide end-to-end administrative support to the Health, Safety & Training Department, including accurate data entry into safety and training databases. • Maintain and analyze daily Lead and Lag safety KPIs, ensuring accuracy and timely reporting. • Assist in the collation of incident and investigation data and maintain related documentation. • Compile, review, and record monthly End of Month (EOM) Health & Safety and Training data and distribute reports to relevant stakeholders. • Develop, update, and distribute Lead and Lag target posters in line with reporting schedules, ensuring accuracy prior to approval. • Review and circulate overdue action reports and open event reports to support timely closure of actions. • Manage monthly Health & Safety and Training KPI spreadsheets and serve as the primary point of contact for KPI-related queries. • Take accurate minutes of weekly and monthly HS&T meetings and ensure timely distribution. • Manage personnel data by adding, updating, and maintaining records for employees and contractors, including terminated personnel. • Record and maintain trainee data, tracking competency units commenced and completed. • Evaluate and report on site training and educational activities as required. • Educate site personnel on the application of Training Standards and Procedures. • Ensure confidentiality and compliance in handling training and personnel information, disclosing data only when operationally required or legally mandated. • Perform other reasonable administrative and support duties as assigned to support Health & Safety operations.

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